

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN
MIGRATION (ICEM)

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF ICEM COUNCIL SESSIONS HELD
IN GENEVA DECEMBER 3-5.

2. VENEZUELA REQUESTED AND WAS ADMITTED TO ICEM MEMBERSHIP
(GOV WITHDREW IN 1967, AND HAS BEEN IN OBSERVER STATUS SINCE).

3. ITALY INFORMED COUNCIL THAT BEGINNING WITH 1974 BUDGET, IT
COULD CONTRIBUTE TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET ONLY, NO LONGER
RPT NO LONGER TO EITHER REGUGEE PROGRAM OR LATIN AMERICAN
PROGRAM IN OPERATIONAL BUDGET. THIS REPRESENTS SERIOUS
BLOW TO ICEM PROGRAMS.

4. RESOLUTION ADOPTING BUDGET AND PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR 1974
WAS PASSED, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE
COVERING INCREASED CUBAN REFUGEE MOVEMENTS, AND URGING
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDS. OVER-
ALL PROGRAM FOR 1974 NOW CALLS FOR 76,000 MOVEMENTS AT TOTAL
COST \$17,954,300. SIZEABLE DEFICITS FORESEEN IN ADMINISTRATIVE
BUDGET AS WELL AS REFUGEE AND LATIN AMERICAN PARTS OF
OPERATIONAL BUDGET.

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5. TEN-NATION WORKING GROUP COMPOSED OF FIVE MEMBERS SUBCOMMITTEE

ON BUDGET AND FINANCE PLUS BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ISRAEL, SPAIN AND SWITZERLAND, WAS ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW SCALE OF PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IN WAKE OF AUSTRALIAN WITHDRAWAL, BUT WITH BROADER RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN OTHER SECTIONS OF ICEM BUDGET AS WELL. THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS IN THE DIRECTION OF USDEL PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL THAT NOT ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT SCALE BUT FINANCING FOR CERTAIN PARTS OF ICEM'S OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS REQUIRED FURTHER EXAMINATION.

6. IN DISCUSSION OF 1974 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET, USDEL CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT DEFICIT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER SHOULD UN PAY SCALE, ON WHICH ICEM SALARIES BASED, BE INCREASED, AS SEEMS LIKELY, IN 1974. FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, DEFICIT IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET COULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD \$400,000.

7. COUNCIL PASSED RESOLUTIONS COMPOSING GOVERNMENT BODIES FOR 1974 AS FOLLOWS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: BELGIUM, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ITALY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND AND U.S.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE: ARGENTINA, GERMANY, ITALY, NETHERLANDS AND U.S.

8. USREP KELLOGG WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NOMINATED BY BRAZIL, SECONDED BY COLOMBIA) AND AMBASSADOR GARCIA OF COLOMBIA, VICE CHAIRMAN.

9. DURING COUNCIL DEBATE, USDEL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EROSION ICEM MEMBERSHIP CITING FACT THAT MANY IMPORTANT MEMBERS I.E. AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD WITHDRAWN FROM ICEM. MOREOVER, USDEL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FACT THAT MANY EXISTING MEMBERS INCLUDING SEVERAL WHICH BENEFIT DIRECTLY FROM ICEM PROGRAMS ARE CONTRIBUTING LITTLE OR NOTHING TO OPERATIONAL BUDGET. THE LION'S SHARE OF ICEM'S OPERATIONAL BUDGET IS BEING BORNE BY JUST A FEW GOVERNMENTS, THE USDEL SAID. IN SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE USDEL STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR BROADER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ICEM.

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